



African Federation for Emergency Medicine
African Journal of Emergency Medicine

www.africanemergcare.ning.com
www.sciencedirect.com



EDITORIAL

The medical education section of the African Journal of Emergency Medicine – Meeting the needs of African emergency care educators

Importance of a medical education section

As a continent, Africa has made great strides in the development of emergency care systems. Despite its mere infancy, these strides have come about largely by efforts in improving medical education. The African Journal of Emergency Medicine has a critical role to play in the ongoing development and spread of emergency care throughout Africa. In order to insure the continued success of such emergency systems, this journal has created a section specifically designed to assist emergency care providers in their quest to become better educators. Without education, no specialty can grow and gain respect within the medical community, no matter what continent or country we are talking about. In the setting of a rapid growth of emergency care throughout the continent, this section holds critical importance.

Emergency care education throughout the world is quite heterogeneous, and it is important to recognize the fact that what might be appropriate to discuss and teach in the USA might not be a pertinent educational issue in a country like Nigeria or Sudan. Put another way, not everybody needs the same focus in medical education. All countries have their own unique needs as it pertains to the education of healthcare providers. At its core, this section will be devoted to helping all African emergency care workers – whether they are EMS, nurses, clinical officers, or doctors (right up to Emergency Medicine specialists) – teach the essentials of emergency care.

The core component of any medical specialty, especially one in its infancy, is a strong medical education framework. To address the needs and concerns of African emergency care educators, this section was created.

Goals of the section:

- Help emergency care workers teach the essentials of emergency care.
- Provide valuable resources to those who teach emergency care.
- Improve emergency care education within Africa.
- Serve as a resource of emergency physician faculty development.
- Facilitate the spread of high quality emergency care education throughout Africa.
- To promote the delivery of high quality emergency medical care by providing emergency care workers who teach with an educational tool box that can be used to guide learners.

It is vital to provide emergency care educators in Africa with information on how to teach the specialty within the framework of emergency care systems development, but it is equally important to improve the quality of care delivered in Africa. In essence, high quality education and training equals better patient outcomes.

What will this section look like?

The medical education section of this journal will serve as a resource for emergency care workers who want to learn how to teach the specialty and who want to stay up to date with current medical education research. Great emphasis will be placed on making sure content is pertinent to the practicing emergency care worker in Africa.

There are endless possibilities regarding the types of topics that can be discussed within the section, and the series will start off with some basic medical education topics that anyone who has exposure to trainees in emergency medicine would find useful.

2211-419X © 2011 African Federation for Emergency Medicine.
Production and hosting by Elsevier B.V. All rights reserved.

Peer review under responsibility of African Federation for Emergency Medicine.

doi:[10.1016/j.afjem.2011.07.012](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.afjem.2011.07.012)



Production and hosting by Elsevier

Some of topics to be addressed in future issues:

- How to improve bedside teaching skills and teach in a busy emergency department?
- How to give a great lecture?
- How to lead a small-group discussion?
- How to develop an educational curriculum?
- How to use educational technologies to teach?
- How to use the computer and the internet as a teaching tool?
- How to educate with podcasts?
- How to effectively give feedback to learners?
- How to teach procedures in emergency care (the right way)?

In addition to discussing core educational needs, like how to give feedback or evaluate students, the section will begin to explore the limitless possibilities of using educational podcasts like the Emergency Medicine Reviews and Perspectives (EMRAP)-Educators Edition Podcast to stay current with hot topics in teaching emergency medicine trainees and medical students. There will also be a general discussion of some of the great educational resources that are already out there on the internet. There are literally hundreds of great educational blogs, podcasts, and websites that the emergency care educator can use as a resource. One key component of becoming a successful educator is knowing how to find useful educational resources for your trainees. This section will serve as an important guide for introducing readers to all of the wonderfully rich emergency medicine educational sites that are out there. The list below details some of the numerous useful resources.

Web/podcast resources in emergency medicine education:

- Life in the fast lane (<http://lifeinthefastlane.com/>). Website has a list of great educational resources.
- Academic life in emergency medicine (<http://academiclifeinem.blogspot.com/>).

- EMRAP educators edition (<http://www.emrapee.com/>).
- EMRAP (<http://www.emrap.org>).
- Critical care perspectives in emergency medicine (<http://ccpem.com/>).
- ERCast (<http://ercast.org/>).
- EMCast (http://www.emedhome.com/cme_emcast.cfm).
- EMCrit (<http://emcrit.org/>).

A challenge to the readership

This section of the journal is a very important one in that medical education usually serves as the foundation of any developing specialty. This could not be truer than it is for the continent of Africa. As with any new journal and/or section we are only as good as the feedback or suggestions that we receive. It is for this reason that we would like to stay in touch with the readership and hear what folks think about the content.

The underlying goal of the section is to meet the needs of the emergency care worker in Africa as it pertains to teaching emergency medicine to trainees. It is for this reason that the African Journal of Emergency Medicine challenges readers to get involved with this section and provide critical feedback so that we can constantly improve and provide readers with the information they need to teach trainees how to provide excellent emergency medical care.

Robert L. Rogers *

*Department of Emergency Medicine, University of Maryland
School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD 21201, USA
E-mail address: robrogersmd@gmail.com*

*“Education is not the filling of a pot, but the lighting of a fire.” –
William Butler Yeats*

Available online 10 August 2011